

ISLAM

The Prayer for Good Health

By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan

According to a *hadith*, the Prophet Muhammad is said to have remarked: "For whomsoever of you the door of supplication is opened, for him the doors of mercy have been opened. And in God's eyes praying for good health is dearer to praying for anything else." (*Sunan al-Tirmidhi*, *hadith* no. 3548).

In this world, people have been given freedom, but the truth is that a person's share in controlling the affairs of life is extremely limited—less than even 1%—while God's share is more than 99%. It is because of this that it is very important and necessary for human beings to engage in *dua* or to supplicate God. One who discovers this fact and faithfully acts accordingly will certainly come in the fold of God's mercy.

In this world, it is very important for human beings to have living faith in God and to discover the reality of life. The next most important thing to have is *afiyat*. By *afiyat* is meant what is ordinarily called 'good health' or 'well-being'.

By birth, a human being is a weak creature. He cannot tolerate even a minor disturbance of his health. A person who does not enjoy good health cannot do anything properly. That is why one should engage much in doing *dua* or supplicating God so that one becomes capable of fulfilling all one's responsibilities in the right way. But *dua* is not simply repeating some Arabic words that one has memorized.

The true *dua* is one that is based in and emerges from *marifat* or God-realization. It is a prayer that emerges from the depths of one's heart, and not simply something that is repeated mechanically on the tongue.

It is this sort of prayer that definitely reaches God and is accepted by Him.

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